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BOROUGH of CHARD

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December, 1943

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
D. V. HAGUE,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:
P. H. WEBB,
M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chard.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1943. Overcrowding is still in evidence and is bound to continue until an appreciable number of new houses can be built. 19 condemned houses are still in use owing to lack of alternative accommodation. Housing is probably the most pressing post war problem and will involve an improved water supply and extensions of sewage disposal arrangements.

Shortage of main water has been felt in the district for a considerable period. Similar difficulties have been experienced in surrounding districts. The whole question of water supplies is likely to come under review on a national scale in the near future.

The influenza epidemic which occurred in the late Autumn was fortunately of a mild type. Two deaths from influenza were reported and one from pneumonia. Influenza was a contributory factor in deaths from other causes, chiefly concerning old people. After five years of War and overcrowded conditions, the health of the town must be considered satisfactory.

SECTION A.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate ...	95	56	39
Live Births—Illegitimate ...	13	8	5
Still Births—Legitimate ...	3	1	2
Still Births—Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Deaths	71	39	32
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			21
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)			27
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population			14

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes ...	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	18
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	20
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age	Nil

Causes of Death

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Res. System ...	1	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	—
Cancer	9	3
Intra-Cranial Vasc: Lesions	3	3
Heart Disease	8	8
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1
Bronchitis	1	—
Pneumonia	—	1
Influenza	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	—	2
Nephritis	1	—
Birth Injuries and malformations etc.	2	—
Suicide	1	—
Other Violent Causes	—	1
All other Causes	9	8
Total	39	32

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for Area.

1. Mr. Webb continues the whole work of the Sanitary Department, a heavy burden which should be relieved as soon as circumstances permit.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities—No Change.

   (b) Ambulance Facilities—No Change.

   (c) Clinic and Treatment Centres—No new Centres have been opened.

   (d) Nursing in the Home—Nurse Tonge and Nurse Roylance continue their good work as District Nurses.

   (e) Hospitals—No Change.

   (f) War Nursery—Children under 5 years of female war workers are looked after at this Nursery from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. meals being provided at a nominal charge of 1/- per day. The whole time non-resident staff consists of Matron, Warden, Assistant Warden, Nursery Assistant, Nursery Trainee and two part time helpers. There was an average daily attendance of 12 children during the year. Since December 22nd the Nursery has been run by the Warden without a Matron. The average daily attendance has increased since the end of the year and there are now over 20 children accommodated daily. Conditions are satisfactory.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. **Water Supply.**—No Change.
2. **Drainage and Sewerage**—Repairs only.
3. **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Drainage Tests and Inspections—	
Tests	49
Inspections	31
Houses Disinfected	37
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections ...	21
Water Samples Taken	3

4. **Schools.**—No Change.

SECTION D.

Housing Inspections.

1. (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) ...	23
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	49
2. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con.Reg. 1925 and 1932	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ...	0
3. Number of Dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

Housing Action

(a) Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	0
(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	3

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	0

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2) Number of Dwelling houses in which Defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By Local Authority	0

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936	0
Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	0

Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding)

19 Condemned Houses are at present occupied.
An application has been made to permit the building of 50 new houses (First Year).

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Number of Producers on the Register	8
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:	
(1) Distributors only	6
(2) Distributors who are also Producers	2

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed ...	1

Government Slaughter House

591 visits have been made to the Government Slaughter House for the purpose of Meat Inspection.
Regular visits have been made to shops. Vehicles have been inspected. There are no Stalls.

Adulteration.

Local Action taken	0

SECTION F.

Infectious Diseases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

At the end of 1943 the following number of children were immunised:

		No. Immunised.	
School Children	676	643	95%
Children under School Age and over 1 Year.	365	150	41%

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified, 7 being admitted to the Isolation Hospital, South Petherton:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	7	1	0
Measles	65	0	0
Whooping Cough	4	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	4	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0
Pneumonia	6	0	0
Pneumococcal Meningitis	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	0	0

The following cases of non-notifiable Infectious Diseases were admitted to South Petherton Hospital.

Dermatitis ... 1

Analysis of the Total Cases Notified.

	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	0	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Measles	3	7	5	9	9	24	6	2	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pneumoccocal Meningitis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Tuberculosis.
New Cases and Mortality.

Age periods	NEW CASES Respiratory.		NEW CASES Non-Respiratory		DEATHS Respiratory		DEATHS Non-Respiratory	
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—25	*1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
25—35	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
35—45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45—55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0

New Cases — 4. Deaths — 1.

* Military.